



**CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE
City Commission Agenda Memo
REGULAR MEETING**

#23-0558

TO: Honorable Mayor & Members of the
Fort Lauderdale City Commission

FROM: Greg Chavarria, City Manager

DATE: July 5, 2023

TITLE: First Reading – Ordinance Repealing Section 28-172 Meter for Temporary
Use - **(Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)**

Recommendation

Staff recommends the City Commission adopt on first reading an amendment to the City of Fort Lauderdale Code of Ordinances to repeal Section 28-172, eliminating the issuance of water meters for temporary use.

Background

The City of Fort Lauderdale currently provides temporary water meters as a service. These temporary meters, also known as “hydrant meters”, are installed on fire hydrants by contractors to obtain potable water for construction purposes and other temporary uses. As part of the current program, users of temporary meters are required to pay a minimum/base usage fee and report their meter readings monthly; however, historical billing and water usage data shows that only 10% of users comply with program requirements. Many meters are reported as lost, usage is not consistently reported, and minimum/base water usage fees often go unpaid.

In addition to the recurring financial losses to the City, there are water quality concerns, as many of these temporary meters do not get backflow preventers installed on them. Backflow preventors are required to be placed on all meters and must be regularly recertified to ensure the water supply is protected. If adequate backflow prevention is not implemented, it can adversely affect the water quality of the City’s distribution system.

Currently, staff estimates that the un-reported water usage and un-paid base fees from hydrant meters accounts for approximately \$217,278.94 in unpaid water bills. Eliminating the temporary meter program will require all water users to apply for a water service connection in accordance with City ordinances and pay upfront fees and monthly water bills through an established application and billing process. This is expected to reduce lost revenues in the water fund and help ensure the water distribution system stays protected from improper use of temporary water connections.

Resource Impact

There is no current fiscal impact associated with this item.

Strategic Connections

This item is a *2022 Top Commission Priority*, advancing the Infrastructure & Resilience initiative.

This item supports the *Press Play Fort Lauderdale 2024 Strategic Plan*, specifically advancing:

- The Infrastructure Focus Area
- Goal 1: Build a sustainable and resilient community
- Objective: Secure our community’s water supply and support water conservation measures

This item advances the *Fast Forward Fort Lauderdale 2035 Vision Plan: We Are Ready*.

Attachment

Exhibit 1 – Ordinance

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